

DX LISTENING DIGEST 2-203, December 25, 2002
edited by Glenn Hauser, wghauser@hotmail.com

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NOTE: If you are a regular reader of DXLD, and a source of DX news but have not been sending it directly to us, please consider yourself obligated to do so. Thanks, Glenn

WORLD OF RADIO 1162:

[High] (Download) <http://www.k4cc.net/wor1162h.ram>
(Stream) <http://www.k4cc.net/wor1162h.ram>
[Low] (Download) <http://www.k4cc.net/wor1162.ram>
(Stream) <http://www.k4cc.net/wor1162.ram>
(Summary) <http://www.worldofradio.com/wor1162.html> [from Thursday]

WBCQ: Wed 2300 on 7415, 17495-CUSB, Mon 0545 7415

WWCR: Thu 2130 on 9475, Sat 0700, Sun 0330 5070, Sun 0730 3210, Wed 1030 9475

RFPI: Fri 1930, Sat 0130, 0730, 1330, 1800, Sun 0000, 0600, 1200, 1830, Mon 0030, 0630, 1230, Tue 1900, Wed 0100, 0700, 1300 7445 and/or 15039

WJIE: M-F 1300, daily 0400 -- maybe; Sun 0630, Mon 0700, Tue 0630 7490

WRN: rest of world Sat 0900, Eu only Sun 0530, NAm Sun 1500

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL

Thanks Glenn for another year of unbelievably fine DX News and shortwave information. I have long appreciated you and what you can amazingly do. Merry Christmas and have a fine New Year (LeRoy Long, OK)

** ANGOLA. 4950 Radio Nacional, Angola 2311-2339 12/25 . While scanning the 60m band I rechecked 4950 to find Angola with a nice signal. Music program, in Vernacular, with easy-listening ballads including Dire Straits, in English, "So far away from me". "Radio Nacional" ID at 2328 during talk. Hope you had an enjoyable Xmas,

spent with loved ones. Here in NH we are in the grip of the snowstorm that is making the national news, snow piling up fast and furious
(Scott R. Barbour, Jr., NH, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** ARGENTINA. 15820-LSB, FM Hit, Buenos Aires, \\ 105.5 Mhz. 1933-1940. Romantic music in Spanish. Program conducted by female. 44444.- At same time, in this frequency, on USB mode, communications between Argentine military staff in Antarctic region with their family in the continent! (Arnaldo Slaen, Argentine, Dec 25, hard-core-dx via DXLD)

** BULGARIA. At 0030 UT I heard unID station playing some hits like Happy New Year by ABBA. Frequency was 5796. Any idea which station it was? Thanks for the reactions! 73! (Ruud Vos, Utrecht, Holland, Dec 25, hard-core-dx via DXLD) It's the 7th harmonic of fundamental 828, of national service "Horizont" from Bulgaria (Roberto Scaglione <http://www.bclnews.it> ibid.)

** CANADA. There are over a thousand news and current affairs radio and TV clips at the CBC Radio & Television Archives Web site at <http://archives.cbc.ca/>

The site is searchable by keyword or browsable by categories. Categories include sports, life & society, conflict & war, and people. Click on a category and you'll get several topics. Topics under life & society include Christmas, Marshall McLuhan, and a 1984 Papal visit. Pick a topic and you'll get several clips with thumbnail stills. Each item contains a brief note as to what it's about, as well as the media type (radio or television) and the running length. It looks like the clips play in Windows Media Player format.

The breadth of clips offered here is pretty amazing. You can listen to Churchill's "Chicken" speech or see a story about the Cabbage Patch Kid mania. You can follow the devastation of Hurricane Hazel or check out the punk rock movement in Canada. Very interesting (Mike Terry, UK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** COSTA RICA. 9724.9V, University Network; 1411-1420 Dec. 24, presumed the transmission source. The usual Dr. Gene Scott babble, Los Angeles phone number by the voice-over man and black gospel bumper music. Frequency varying all over the place between 9724.8-9725.05. Very good (Terry L. Krueger, TOCOBAGA DX #67 - 25 December, 2002 CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, USA, via DXLD)

** CUBA. Just before my sunrise most Americans got weaker, and instead of that I got a fantastic signal from Radio Rebelde on 1180 kHz, peaking far above the S9 mark for several minutes around 0740 UT. Never heard them so strong before. I checked the parallel frequency of 5025, but that was inaudible (!). So, nice signals, totally against

what I expected because of the active magnetic field. Mediumwave, an interesting band! (Dick van der Knaap, Holland, Dec 23, BDXC via DXLD)

Radio Rebelde from Cuba came in again on 1180; today it started somewhere around sunrise. I first came across them at 0810, and the signal disappeared at 0823. There was a lot of echo on the signal; so maybe some kind of ducting/multipath signal. Heard this before on their signal, which is rather interesting (Dick van der Knaap, Holland, Dec 24, BDXC via DXLD)

When I searched the band for Americans I came across an talkstation on 950 kHz. First I thought it was an Canadian, but --- then I heard them talking --- Spanish!!!!!! They probably do not speak that on Canadian radio. Hmmmmmmmmmmmm interesting

While listening at this station I found out that I was listening to Radio Reloj from Habana, Cuba!!!! Well, the station was there for only a few minutes, and then disappeared for good.

I decided to check the 2 frequencies on which I recently heard other Cubans. On 890, Radio Progresso had a fine signal, but with some European interference. On 1180 I could hear Radio Rebelde in, but it was suffering heavy interference from the station on 1179.

On 1470 I heard a station playing non-stop Caribbean/Latin-music, with no news on the top of the hour. Maybe Venezuela??

I kept listening to Radio Progreso on 890, with slow fading on the signal it came in fine. Then around 0742 the signal rose up to well above the s9!!, and peaked at SINPO 34444 levels for a short time. Around 0745 the signal started to get weaker. After 0750 the signal was there all the time, but slowly fading up and down. At 0835 it disappeared into the noise.

Meanwhile the transmitter on 1179 had switched off/or reduced power, and Radio Rebelde produced a fine signal. It got slowly weaker, and became more echoed and fluttery. At 0840 UT this one disappeared.

Earlier this week I discovered the sunrise peak on Radio Rebelde around the same time. The Cubans seem to peak for a few minutes somewhere around 10 minutes before my sunrise. (DX-tip???)

Have a nice X-mas, and have fun on the magic-mediumwave band!
(Dick van der Knaap, East Holland, Dec 25, Benelux DX Club via DXLD)

** CUBA [non]. Treasury bureaucrats forget which side of the Straits they live on

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/101289_cuba24.shtml

U.S. THREATENS TO FINE MAN WHO POSTED CUBA NEWS --- Seattleite didn't have federal permission to promote meeting of 'sister cities' group

Tuesday, December 24, 2002 By SAM SKOLNIK SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER REPORTER

Retired Seattle plumber and World War II veteran Tom Warner says he's been a proponent of the Cuban revolution and the country's president, Fidel Castro, since "he came down from the mountains."

Recently, as secretary of the Seattle/Cuba Friendship Committee, Warner, 77, supported developing a "sister-city relationship" between King County and Cuba's Granma Province.

Even though there are tight federal restrictions on traveling to and conducting business with Cuba, Warner never thought he would run afoul of the law by posting on a Web site information about a meeting of the U.S. Cuba Sister Cities Association in Havana. But that's what has happened.

Treasury Department officials, saying that Warner lacked a "specific license" to promote the conference, are threatening to fine him up to \$55,000 if he doesn't tell them everything he knows about the conference and the organizations involved.

Treasury officials also contacted King County Councilman Dwight Pelz, D-South Seattle, and Alice Woldt, head of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, who unlike Warner actually attended the conference. Warner has hired a lawyer to argue that the demand for information violates his constitutional rights of free speech and due process. He and several supporters in the civil liberties community held a press conference yesterday to publicize his plight.

"All he did was post information on the Internet and they threatened him with fines," said Neil Fox of the Seattle chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. "This is a serious escalation of the assault on civil liberties in this country. It's outrageous."

On Oct. 16, an official with Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control wrote Warner about the Web posting that appeared in January regarding the Havana conference the following month.

"OFAC did not issue a specific license to you to organize, arrange, promote, or otherwise facilitate the attendance of persons at the conference in Cuba," the letter said. It went on to require that

Warner give a "full explanation" of his involvement with the conference, including providing all relevant records.

Warner's attorney, Lynne Wilson, wrote in response that Treasury "has no authority under the U.S. Constitution (or federal regulations) to interfere with someone's rights to post information on the Internet about a conference in Cuba."

Treasury Department spokesman Rob Nichols declined to comment specifically on the Warner case. But when department officials are presented with information of possible violations of the 40-year-old embargo, he said, "we have to follow up on it."

The reason to enforce the embargo is plain, said Nichols: "The Cuban government violates internationally accepted, basic standards of human rights."

The department has not yet decided to fine Warner, Nichols said; that decision will come after he has had a chance to present his case. Though individuals can be fined up to \$55,000 per infraction, the average penalty is \$7,500, he said.

After an impassioned debate, the County Council voted 7-6 in late October to reject the plan for a sister relationship with the Cuban province. U.S. veterans spoke out on both sides of the issue. About a dozen U.S. cities, including Tacoma, already have sister relationships with cities in Cuba. © 1998-2002 Seattle Post-Intelligencer (via David Crawford, DXLD)

** CYPRUS.

8464 Lincolnshire Poacher CYP 21-12-02 1600 id 98426 USB 3
10426 Lincolnshire Poacher CYP 21-12-02 1600 id 98426 USB 3
11545 Lincolnshire Poacher CYP 21-12-02 1400 id 50699 USB 3
12603 Lincolnshire Poacher CYP 21-12-02 1500 id 69078 USB 3
13375 Lincolnshire Poacher CYP 21-12-02 1500 id 69078 USB 3
14487 Lincolnshire Poacher CYP 21-12-02 1300 id 29372 USB 3
15682 Lincolnshire Poacher CYP 21-12-02 1300 id 29372 USB 3
16084 Lincolnshire Poacher CYP 21-12-02 1300 id 29372 USB 3
(Ary Boender, Netherlands, BDXC via DXLD)

** DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. 5009.78, Radio Cristal Internacional/Radio Pueblo 15-10, Santo Domingo; 2104-2323 Dec. 23. Per Gerry Bishop's request, I checked to see how this one is currently IDing. Turned it on at 2104 and had a weak carrier (probably just missed the s/on at about 2100), nonstop Spanish news by M&W coming up but threshold level till about 2130, then slowly improving. Recheck 2249, a clear canned "Radio Cristal Internacional" ID and into the usual bachata-type canned music format. Abruptly into this weird techo/synth loop from

2302 for a couple of minutes, then "Noticias... Radio Pueblo [no "15-10" tag] en Santo Domingo, y Radio M(?)--- y onda corta" followed by newscast by M, telco-ish audio. Presume the techno music was filler while they patched Pueblo back in. News item on Fidel Castro's bum leg, end of newscast at 2316 and into a long ad block. They key has always been: music and brief announcements (rarely commercials) is Cristal canned programming, but live news and commercials is usually Pueblo. But when you are going to hear either, I can't say (Terry L. Krueger, TOCOBAGA DX #67 - 25 December, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, via DXLD)

** INDIA. Recently while TWR Sri Lanka on 882 kHz was off air for some days, I could hear AIR Imphal there which is usually blocked by TWR. A reply to my email report to AIR Imphal has just been received stating that on November 17, 2002 they have commissioned a 300 kw transmitter replacing the old 50 kw one on this frequency. The Station Engineer has asked me to inform other DXers about this and he appreciates Reception Reports which must be sent to:

R. Narasimha Swamy
Superintending Engineer,
All India Radio,
IMPHAL, 795001
Manipur State, India
email: narasimhaswamy@yahoo.com [not truncated!!]

As TWR Sri Lanka is using the same frequency, it is a difficult catch for those in South India. DX listeners please note that this station also operates on SW 4775 at 0030-0215 & 1030-1700/1730 and on 7150 at 0230-0430/0530 & 0630-1030 with 50 kw and the above address can be used. Info on any feedback received is welcome. 73 (Jose Jacob, India, Dec 21, dx_india via DXLD)

Early this morning at 2.00 am IST (2030 UT) while checking the MW bands, I heard test tone with extremely strong signals on 648 kHz. This continued till 5.53 am (0023 UT) when the tuning signals and ID of AIR Indore was given.

Enquiries with the station officials confirmed that it was tests by their new 200 kw French made transmitter which is being used from last week. This replaces their old 100 kw transmitter. 73 (Jose Jacob, VU2JOS/AT0J, Hyderabad, Dec 24, dx_india via DXLD)

** INDONESIA. 11784.83, Voice of Indonesia; 2046-2102* Dec. 23, tune-in to English W host, Indo vocals with flutes, ID at 2056 into news summary on (mostly) Indo-related international policy issues. Closing ID at 2059, filler music and abruptly silent just past 2100 and carrier off at 2102. Fair via LSB (Terry L. Krueger, TOCOBAGA DX #67 - 25 December, 2002 CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, USA, via DXLD)

** INTERNATIONAL. Here's a great site if you have a broadband connection: <http://tv4all.com/portal.htm>

It lists about 570 TV stations from a bunch of countries and their streaming speeds. They make for some very interesting watching at times, and video @ 300k is pretty decent, IMO (Jacob Norland, Dec 23, WTFDA via DXLD)

Hey, you found a great site! I'm at a music video site in Sydney Australia called the basement <http://www.thebasement.com.au> where right now they are playing music on the audio and for the video they have a camera (or webcam) on a bus as it makes its route and the camera checks out the people going on/getting off, the stores, points of interest, etc. It drove past a Mobil station but too fast for me to check out the gas prices. What a cool concept! I do the same thing when we go to NYC on the bus. (The music is pretty good also.) Thanks Jacob! (Mike Bugaj - Enfield, CT USA, WTFDA Circulation, ibid.)

** INTERNATIONAL WATERS [non?]. According to a story on the 2200 GMT Kol Yisrael English news, [Israelnationanews.com/A7.org](http://www.israelnationanews.com/A7.org) was off the air for an hour after complaints that the pirate was carrying election propaganda. The police did a search and took pictures but did not confiscate any equipment. According to the story on the INN/A7 website, the captain was warned not to resume transmissions.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/news.php3?id=36073>

Hmm - Kol Yisrael said the ship is inside Israeli territorial waters whereas the story on the INN/A7 website said it is outside. Apparently you can have private stations in Israel but NOT national ones. There was a law giving them a license but it was nullified by the Supreme Court.

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=JPost/A/JPArticle>ShowFull&cid=1040703242951>

<http://www.haaretzdaily.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=244681&contrassID=1&subContrassID=0&sbSubContrassID=0>
(Joel Rubin, NY, Dec 24, swprograms via DXLD)

** IRAN [and non]. IRANIAN "PRO-REFORM" JOURNALISTS WRITE TO US COUNTERPARTS AS NEW YEAR

The following "message" from Iranian "pro-reform journalists" is addressed to "American journalists" in Persian and English is published on the web site of the Iranian newspaper Aftab-e Yazd on 25 December

[This is the text in English] The Christian New Year starts in a few more days. Reformist Iranian journalists wish a happy new year for their colleagues all around the world with an aching heart though.

Various members of the benevolent, alert and cultured Iranian society were saddened when they found out about how the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has mistreated their compatriots.

Iranians have no time in history supported the use of violent and illogical measures against unarmed people. They have indeed every way possible rejected cowardly acts. The latest case in point is the Iranian nation's condemnation of the 9/11 terrorist operations which claimed many innocent lives.... <http://www.aftabnews.net/payam/en.pdf> (via BBCM via DXLD)

** IRAQ [non]. RE: 11292: There seems to be something wrong with the modulation on this frequency. I hear a strong carrier on exactly 11292.00 [1525 UTC ?], but only occasional snatches of very faint modulation, which does indeed sound like Arabic music. With the hash from 400 computers and God knows how many fluorescent light tubes, this place isn't electrically quiet enough to hear anything intelligible (A. Sennitt, RN, Holland, Dec 18, 2002 for Clandestine Radio Watch via DXLD)

** ISLE OF MAN. Hi, I am currently having one of my best Christmases ever as just yesterday we got some excellent news (its embargoed until January but you can probably guess what it is!) Hope you are also having a wonderful holiday and that 2003 is a wonderful year for you. Merry Everything (Paul Rusling FellowAnoraks@longwaveradio.com 25 December 2002 11:41 via Mike Terry, DXLD)

** KOREA SOUTH [non]. Voice of National Salvation: As I promised I have tried to make scanned copies of a letter and a "QSL-card" (so they say, but it is a program schedule) from Voice of National Salvation. I heard it on 4450 kHz. The address used was: National Democratic Front of South Korea, Grenier Osawa 107, 40 Nando-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan (B. Fransson, Sweden, Dec 20, 2002 for CRW) It's up on the CRW Clandestine radio gallery in a few days (Martin Sch^ch, Clandestine Radio Watch via DXLD)

** KUWAIT. R. Farda: On Medium Wave it is on 1593 kHz from Kuwait with a power of 150 kW. I would be interested in any reports on this particular frequency because I just spent three months in Kuwait installing that transmitter (smile). It is an old Continental 318.5D series working into a two tower 1/4 wavelength array. The transmitter in Kuwait is using an Orban Digital Optimod limiter/processor. There is another medium wave transmitter with only 60 kW on 1539 (I think) at Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (Gaines Johnson, Dec 18, dxing.info via DXLD)

Gaines, This transmitter on 1593 kHz has even been heard in North America. We heard this from the coast of Newfoundland on November 5th and 6th during a DXpedition. The signal was fairly strong but it was

getting chewed up by interference from Romania, Ireland and Egypt. It was interesting that the MW signal was a couple of seconds ahead of the parallel programming on 9680 kHz. (Jean Burnell, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, Dec 20, *ibid.*)

Hi Glenn, American propaganda station R. FARDA, 1593 kHz, has been regularly heard with Farsi programming around 1730 UT. Reception is fair to good even with my indoor loop antenna. RX: AOR 7030+ ANT: Wellbrook ALA 1530P-active loop. PS. MERRY X-MAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR to all!! 73¥s (Jouko Huuskonen, Turku, FINLAND, Dec 25, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** LAOS [non]. Hmong Lao Radio: Heute kam auch mein Brief an ULMD/Hmong Lao Radio (Box 2426, St. Paul, MN 55106) zurück. Auf dem Brief findet sich allerdings ein Hinweis "try St. Paul MN 55102-1139". Ich weiß allerdings nicht, ob das nur ein Hinweis für einen Postbeamten ist, und der Brief schon dort war. Ich werde es auf jeden Fall noch einmal mit diesem ZIP Code versuchen (P. Robich, Austria, Dec 16, 2002 for CRW via DXLD) see also USA non

** MALDIVE ISLANDS. The URL you were asking for - Voice of Maldives - is at <http://www.vom.gov.mv/> Happy Holidays (Pentti Lintujärvi, Helsinki, Finland, Dec 25, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Webmaster of 1000 Lakes DX Page
<http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Park/3232/dx.htm>
and dxlinks.info <http://www.dxlinks.info/>
and Finnish DX Association <http://www.sdxl.org/>

Launches wmp automatically; nothing else is there (gh, DXLD)

** MALI. 5995, RTV Malienne, 2252-2258 12/25. Music program, in French, featuring love songs. Cover of Elvis' "Can't stop falling in love with you". Announcer with several mentions, "love". Crushed at 2258 by CRI 5990 s/on (via Cuba). Switched to // 4835 fair // 4783 poor (Scott R. Barbour, Jr., NH, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** MEXICO. 11770.17, Radio México Internacional; 1616-1644 Dec. 24, noted a big carrier here around 1310+, no audio making it through. Rechecking at 1616: Spanish M&W chatter, ID, classical music fills from 1636. Extremely low modulation, easy to pass up if not for the het. Their transmitters must be about ready to be curbside trashed. And on Dec. 25th: tune-in at 1735 to French programming. Very bad FMing audio on this channel, and weak modulation on 9704.97, took a few minutes to actually confirm it was French, with W continuously talking except for classical, opera and flute fillers. Indeed French is listed (albeit the timing has shifted) per their schedule, which is at <http://www.imer.gob.mx/programacion/rmi.pdf> in Acrobat format

(Terry L. Krueger, TOCOBAGA DX #67 - 25 December, 2002 CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, USA, via DXLD)

** NETHERLANDS. Re Piepzender website, 2-202: Beware: Music launches automatically obliterating whatever you are already listening to on real player!!! I hate websites that do this. Bezoekers, BEWARE (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** PAKISTAN. PBC on new 5080 is no doubt the News and Current Affairs programme ex 7105. The morning transmission remains on 7105 (though currently close to 7106). This transmitter often has a problem with the frequency exciter and produces a loud howl with the audio barely audible. When this happens, the "carrier" consists of several subcarriers that interfere with each other. Both frequencies are equally affected (Olle Alm, Sweden, Dec 25)

** PARAGUAY. 7737.3, Radio AmÈrica, Villeta, 1006-1015, Diciembre 25. Charla religiosa en espaÈol. M'sica cristiana. 24442/1. Inaudible en 2300 y 9983 kHz (Arnaldo Slaen, Argentine, ConexiÛn Digital via DXLD)

** PERU. 6956.65, 0745 Radio La Voz del Campesino, fair sig on Xmas day with chicha music. PWO (Paul Ormandy, Oamaru, Host of The South Pacific DX Report <http://radiodx.com> Dec 25, DX LISTENING DIGEST) A time, I suppose, when they are not normally on the air. Check again NY Eve if not sooner (gh, DXLD)

** PERU. 9720.4 Radio Victoria, Lima, 0048+, Diciembre 25. Reporte de la hora: "7 y 48 de la tarde". Anuncio: "seguimos con el pastor internacional.....Morais". Charla religiosa en espaÈol. 24432. No pude escucharla en su frecuencia de 49 metros (Arnaldo Slaen, Argentina)

13565.6, Radio Ondas del PacÌfico, Ayabaca, 0106+, Diciembre 25. M'sica tropical andina. Muchas ID's: "Radio Ondas del PacÌfico.....categÛricamente superior...."; "Siempre contigo, Radio Ondas del PacÌfico"; "Radio Ondas del PacÌfico.....su mejor compaÈola"; "Radio Ondas del PacÌfico es la radio que naciÛ para usted". 34443 (Arnaldo Slaen, Argentina, ConexiÛn Digital via DXLD)

** PUERTO RICO. A Puerto Rican station has applied for a "unitary license" - a permit to operate four transmitters on the same channel under a single license.

WSTE channel 7 Ponce is licensed for a site about 6 miles northeast of the city. In 1986 they licensed boosters at San Juan, Mayaguez, and Arecibo. (WSTE-1, WSTE-2, WSTE-3) At about the same time, they licensed an auxiliary ("backup") transmitter in Ponce proper.

Puerto Rico is a mountainous place. The documents indicate the station

decided no single site could provide a decent signal across all the island, even though island-wide coverage **is** predicted by the formulas.

So, with FCC consent, WSTE shut down their main transmitter (which would interfere with the boosters) and began running their Ponce backup transmitter and the three boosters instead.

However, boosters can only operate if there's a primary station to relay, and only if the boosters are located within the (predicted) Grade B contour of the primary station. So WSTE has been required to maintain an operational transmitter and antenna at the main site.

This transmitter has not been used since 1992.

Basically, WSTE's request is to make this arrangement permanent. All four transmitters (the Ponce auxiliary and the three boosters) would be covered by a single license. So would four DTV transmitters, all on channel 66, at the same sites. The main transmitter would be closed and removed.

Correct ERPs and coordinates for the three boosters appear in my database. The HAATs are 332m at San Juan; 366m at Ponce; and 28m at Arecibo. The Ponce auxiliary is not in the FCC database. (this is not unusual) It's 100 kW at 81m, at 18-01-46N / 66-38-09W.

--

(Doug Smith W9WI, Pleasant View (Nashville), TN EM66,
<http://www.w9wi.com> Dec 19, WTFDA via DXLD)

** ROMANIA. RRI, the best heard in a long time, good modulation and no QRM tho a bit fluttery, on 9510 at 0646 Dec 25 with news in English (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** RUSSIA. Radio Gardarika of St. Petersburg, is again on SW. It will be on the air since December 20 to 31, 2002 from 2000 to 2300 UT on 5920 kHz in Russian/English from 200 kW transmitter beamed to Western Europe. The station also identifies itself as Radio Studio and Radio Nevskaya Volna (i.e. Radio Neva Wave). It verifies reception reports with QSL cards. Merry Christmas and happy New Year to all members of EDXP! (Alexander Beryozkin, St.Petersburg, Dec 24, EDXP via DXLD)

** RUSSIA [non]. MOLDAVIA: 7125 kHz Voice of Russia. Kishinyov. Tarjeta QSL (mencionando sitio transmisor en Kishinyov, Moldavia), tarjeta navideña, carta personal de agradecimiento por el detallado reporte de recepción firmada por Tanya Stukova (Mrs.), boletín de horarios y frecuencias y folleto de participación del concurso de celebración de los 60 años de la resistencia del Ejército Rojo en Stalingrado frente a las tropas nazis. Demora de 22 días. Es el

radiopais n'mero 138 (Marcelo Tonolo, NY, ConexiÛn Digital via DXLD)

But is 7125 really Moldova? PWBR '2003' says it is in the 0100-0600 period, but B-02 HFCC registrations show 4 other sites, depending on the time, which you did not mention:

7125 1330 1600 44,45,64	TCH 250 120	1234567 271002 300303 RUS VOR GFC
7125 1600 1900 28NW	EKB 240 281	1234567 271002 300303 RUS VOR GFC
7125 2030 2230 17,27N	S.P 250 268	1234567 271002 300303 RUS VOR GFC
7125 2300 0600 17	ARM 500 310	1234567 271002 300303 RUS VOR GFC

TCH = Chita, as if the way it's transliterated into French were relevant; EKB = Yekaterinburg, as if the initial Y- in Russian were insignificant (and I have been informed there is no soft-sign in Yek... as I had been putting); S.P. must be St. Peterburg; and ARM the catch-all Armavir, also known by other names, none of which could be confused geographically with Moldova.

Just because Moscow QSLs it as such does not make it so. VOR/R. Moscow/RMWS have an awful track record in specifying sites which are incorrect or downright lies held over from Soviet-era deceit and paranoia. But HFCC registrations are often falsified, too. So 7125 could really be Moldova; I believe the experts have discussed this before and hope they will refresh us briefly on this. Altho Marcelo was upset at a previous contradiction and may have given up reading DXLD. Nothing personal, I would assure him (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** SRI LANKA. The Civil Administration in Thamil Eelam -An American Academic - A US Academic, who spent several months in Thamileelam during a three year period (1994 - 1996), on his return to the US in 1996 sent this special report to the Tamil Voice. In this report he outlines his observations on the LTTE administration of the north

I spent a total of one sesquiyear in the northern province of Sri Lanka since early 1994, as a volunteer working with farmers and educators. During this period I came to know the LTTE administrators and their administration of the Northern Province areas under their control. My observations below are based on that experience....

Communications: The north has no telecommunications link with the rest of the island or world. In total about 100 computers were in use before the October 95 offensive. The Sri Lankan radio and television programs are received in certain parts of the north with a tall antenna. International radio stations are the main source of reliable news. The LTTE operates an FM station for a few hours each day.

[excerpt of only brief graf of relevance in very long article about

all aspects of LTTE governance of area under their control]

(via D. Prabakaran, Tamilnadu, CRW via DXLD) The entire document is in CRW #123, to be issued Dec. 31 (gh, DXLD)

** TAJIKISTAN. Higher harmonics do propagate even if the fundamental is too low for the given time of the day! 21 Dec at 0936, heard Tajik Radio on 28980 kHz (343) - it's the 4th harmonic of 7245. Even the 3rd harmonic, 21735 kHz, was audible, but much weaker (0=1...2). As per WRTH, 2nd domestic program must use the frequency during the daytime (Alexei Kulinchenco, Kazan, Russia, Signal Dec 24 via DXLD)

** U K. UK FREQUENCY ALLOCATION TABLE PUBLISHED
From <http://www.radio.gov.uk/> 20 December 2002

The Radiocommunications Agency has today published the UK Frequency Allocation Table (UKFAT) on its website at
<http://www.radio.gov.uk/topics/spectrum-strat/uk-fat/uk-fat2002.htm>

The UK Frequency Allocation Table, until recently a classified document, now covers the whole radio spectrum from 9 kHz to 275 GHz. It also identifies the responsibility for management of those frequency bands or services where management has been agreed, showing whether they are managed by the Radiocommunications Agency, the Ministry of Defence, or another Government department. Its publication responds to a recommendation of the independent Review of Radio Spectrum Management. The publication of the UKFAT will contribute to greater transparency about the use of the radio spectrum and help to identify further opportunities for sharing between civil and military users.

A printed version of the UKFAT will be available from the Radiocommunications Agency shortly. Those wishing to receive a copy should contact the RA library on tel: 0207 211 0502/05 (via Mike Terry, Dec 23, BDXC-UK via DXLD)

** U K. Glenn, You can watch the Queen's Xmas message at the BBC news website, but only after 1500 today (Ivan Grishin, Ont., Dec 25, DX LISTENING DIGEST) And for how long afterwards, I wonder. Specifically via: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/2604079.stm (gh)

** U K. MEMORIES OF A WORLD SERVICE CORRESPONDENT
Friday, 20 December, 2002, 22:28 GMT

As the BBC World Service celebrates its 70th birthday, former correspondent Mark Brayne reflects on what the station means to him.

There were many times in my foreign journalistic postings through the

1970s and 1980s when I was aware of the impact around the world of the BBC World Service - and perhaps the most dramatic was in China during 1989.

Students and workers were demonstrating in their hundreds of thousands on Tiananmen Square, but it was from the foreign radio stations that most were getting their information.

At the height of the protests, so bloodily put down by the Chinese army a few days later, one group of students paraded through Beijing with a banner reading "Thank you BBC".

In the middle of the following night I was reminded dramatically of the responsibility that goes with reporting for the World Service. A BBC colleague telephoned from the Square with rumours there that China's then supreme leader, Deng Xiaoping, had resigned.

Scarcely having slept for weeks, I allowed my professional judgement to slip, and broadcast a despatch without further corroboration.

Literally within minutes, the word on the Square was not that Deng's resignation was just rumoured. It had now been confirmed, by the BBC no less, a source impeccable above all others.

Unfortunately for me, it was not true, and was quickly corrected.

But it was a healthy reminder how at so many critical junctures in the past 70 years, it has been the World Service to which the world has turned.

Serious values

We do not always get it right.

We do, though, take accuracy and credibility very seriously, and our listeners' trust and admiration rubs off on the journalistic mortals who provide the reporting.

Again and again, as I travelled Central Europe as BBC correspondent for the region in the early 1980s, I would be met with, "Are you THE Mark Brayne?"

It was a comment flattering to the ego of a correspondent greenhorn, but of course it was not about me.

Every BBC correspondent has a rich store of such anecdotes, although since the fall of Communism, the World Service has been playing a different role for many of its traditional audiences.

Informative role

Today we aim to bring explanation, understanding and the highest journalistic standards to countries now deluged and confused by information of their own.

And of course we bring music, and art, and literature, and companionship.

Whenever I wonder whether the World Service gets the right mix, I remember the words of one of the Western hostages held in Lebanon in the 1980s.

During his six-and-a-half-year captivity, Thomas Sutherland had a small receiver in his cell.

Listening to the BBC, he said, had kept him sane.

And if someone were to begin with a blank sheet of paper and devise the world's best possible radio station, he observed, what would they end up with?

The BBC World Service.

Mark Brayne spent nearly two decades reporting Cold War Europe and China for Reuters and the BBC, with postings in Moscow, Berlin, Vienna and Beijing (BBCWS website via Kim Elliott, Dec 24, DXLD)

** U K / U S A. The moaning and groaning about Byford and the BBC on this list is becoming tedious.

Follow the money. BBC makes money from selling its programming to Sirius, XM Satellite Radio, and Public Radio International. Why do you expect them to compete with themselves by giving their product away free on shortwave to the North American audience?

Get over it. The BBC will not be back on SW beamed to NA.

I find that between 15.190, 12.095, 9.410, 6.195 and 5.975 I can hear BBC well enough at most any time of day or night. Granted, I live in a part of the USA that enjoys good SW reception from the UK direct or the relay facilities in Antigua. But then so does 80% of the US and Canadian population. If you can't hear them, I suggest you get a better antenna.

I live over 100 miles from Washington DC and Philadelphia, PA yet I can hear an hour of BBC on FM at 5 AM, via WSCL, Salisbury, MD and a

half hour of BBC World TV news via BBC America on Direct TV at three different times in the morning and at 6 PM in the evening. I also get an hour of BBC on the FM radio at 9 AM via the New Jersey public broadcasting network At 5 PM I get a program jointly produced by BBC and WGBH, Boston via WSCL. That totals up to 5 hours a day of BBC news without ever turning on my shortwave or satellite radio.

And I live in the boondocks. Me thinks thou dost protest too much.
"Aye, aye. Full power to the deflector shields. Brace for incoming photon torpedos."

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Joe Buch, DE, Dec 20, swprograms via DXLD)
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No torpedoes, but I've done a little research. Here's the skinny as I have it:

1. BBC gets nothing from Sirius or XM. It's a straight barter arrangement, if one can call it that. BBC gets an outlet; Sirius/XM get (differing, btw) programming. Agreement has a shelf life (no one will say how long) and will have to be renegotiated at some future date.
2. PRI affiliates do pay...a flat fee regardless of how much BBC content they use. PRI also gets a cut of each affiliate fee.
3. Shortwave was never a factor in either negotiation, say my sources. BBC is free to distribute any way it wishes --- including DRM if they want.
4. If one only measures BBCWS hourly news availability, then BBCWS presence is up via FM in the US. There has been near zero success in getting PRI affiliates to relay other programming and more longer form news programs. (There is some churn....stations cancel or reduce output; others sign on and add.) Rich Cuff could check this with his sources, but I am told that there is disappointment at Bush House on this score, though their concern is much more with brand recognition -- raw numbers that say they have heard a BBC ID in the last month.

To be perfectly frank, I find the concept that public pressure (due to loss of shortwave availability) will push PRI affiliates to add more BBC content to be preposterous. Equally so for an argument that potential to hear BBCWS will drive sat radio subscriptions. It just ain't happenin'.

Joe's attempt to inject some logic into this subject is most welcome. Quite honestly, I think the whole thing is getting tedious as well.

Yes, some frequencies still work somewhat. But it was a boneheaded decision, as much for how and when it was done, as what was done--and it sticks in the craw.

I also don't think the Beeb's management should be let off the hook -- even at this late date-- for laying this egg. Furthermore and curiously, it was they that chose to bring it up all over again on Byford's Talking Point appearance. Obviously and oddly, *they* still think it's an issue! Even Coke relented and went back to its old formula when it received enough complaints!

The part of this that's even more tedious is the willingness of the BBC to beat this dead horse (if that is truly what it is) itself on its own dime!

PS: Sorry, Joe; but there's always the delete key. :-) Odd, though, isn't it that more PRI stations don't use more BBC content given that they pay the same whether they run 5 minutes of news or the full 24 hour schedule? The economics would appear to compel a different approach. My PD at the local public radio outlet says there's a limit to the audience's tolerance for foreign content. Evidently that ceiling is quite low (John Figliozi, *ibid.*)

I hate to say I told you so (not that anybody at the BBC was listening when I said the same thing back in 2001!) but public radio stations that play a "news/talk" format have certain things that they play that are well-established and are not going anywhere. No US public radio station that carries All Things Considered for two hours (and many do) is going to change to playing 1 hour of ATC and one hour of Newshour from the BBC. Ditto for Prairie Home Companion, Car Talk, This American Life, Fresh Air, Marketplace, etc. Whoever convinced the folks at the BBC that stations would cut back programs like this to air BBC content did a fabulous sales job!!

Interestingly enough, I have no idea if this is still the case, in the mid 1980s when I lived in Durham, NC, I heard the BBCWS for top of the hour updates on WCPE from Raleigh. This station played classical music and they got their BBCWS feed via shortwave. (At one point they were trying to put in a bigger antenna to get better reception.) I believe they felt that a membership in NPR wasn't cost effective since they were all music, and getting BBC on shortwave allowed them to have an hourly newsbreak without signing up for NPR. But that's just my hunch (Kyle Barger, Dec 21, swprograms via DXLD)

WCPE recently had to drop BBC news (long since via satellite, not SW) as costs are going way up for rights, sewn up by PRI (gh, DXLD)

If the BBC's intent is to drive more of the audience to alternative

delivery modes including DRM, then cancellation of the North American and South Pacific targeting on analog SW will certainly work to that end. Once the audience is transitioned to these alternative modes, then the BBC will be in a better position to negotiate carriage renewal contracts or charge subscription fees. Think of the current arrangements as loss leaders with long term revenue possibilities.

I think there is also a fear of British accents distorting the image of a station. To those of us who have been enjoying the BBC since we were kids, the British accents are no big deal but to most Americans, British accents sound haughty and aloof, just the image public radio is trying to move away from. That is why the two most carried programs on USA NPR/PRI outlets (The World and World Update) use an American hostess in one case and co-production by WGBH announcers in the other.

I remember the first time I heard Estelle Winters' British accent on the Voice of Russia. She sounded really snooty. I was very surprised to find she was quite pleasant and friendly when I met her at the SWL WinterFest a few years ago. That just shows me how one might form an incorrect image of a person or a radio station based on accents. By the same token, many people from the southern part of the USA sound stupid to my yankee ears. You don't hear many southern accents on the radio north of the Mason-Dixon Line unless they are trying to cultivate a folksy radio image. (People in southern New Mexico told me I had a New York accent, but I don't think I did because I learned to talk in Indiana and had not lived in New York for 25 years.)

I do know of one FM station in Carmel, California that was running the entire BBC stream 24 hours a day when I visited there a few years ago. That is a very upscale area with lots of rich, educated people. It is hardly representative of mainstream America. In this case the BBC programming certainly set the station apart from the rabble in a community where many of the people think of themselves as above average in affluence and lifestyle. Here the BBC seemed to fit right in. I would be interested to hear from other readers who know of other stations relaying BBC during prime time for extended periods. Maybe we can make some inferences based on where those stations are located.

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(Joe Buch, Dec 21, swprograms via DXLD)
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Remember, too, that not all public radio stations -- even those who take NPR programming -- are PRI members. For WDIY-FM here in Allentown, the PRI membership alone would be \$17,000 per year. Money they don't have. Then there's the fees for the BBCWS programming on top of that (Richard Cuff / Allentown, PA USA, ibid.)

[Listener support:] What's being suggested here is changing the funding model of an international broadcaster. And y'all thought that getting a station to reverse a mere policy was difficult! :-)

Read my lips |g| --- The BBCWS feels that, via FM and the internet, it is already getting its broadcasts to the people they feel are important to its purposes. You heard Byford mention Boston, New York and Washington, as well as "opinion formers". You could add another handful of cities to that list, but not much more. That is the message from Bush House, I'm afraid. The fact of the matter is: they don't much care if they're heard in Sheboygan (sp?) or Ypsilanti (sp?) (or even Toronto, apparently). If they can be heard there (or by secondary shortwave frequencies), it's a "value-added" situation as far as the BBC is concerned --- and not something for which they are willing to pay extra --- such as that \$700,000. We may not agree with the approach (and I don't, fwiw); but we really don't have a say. And if the dissidents are right and Byford is wrong, the WS will suffer some consequences from that approach.

If you really want to hear them well and often and ON A RADIO, then FM is the main game and Joe's plan is the way to go. As Scott said, "Think local".

I enjoy this discussion because it calls into play the purpose of international broadcasting, the viability of the public service broadcasting model and the future (or lack thereof perhaps) of them both --- not because of the declining importance of shortwave radio (what someone referred to as "nostalgia"). Shortwave is simply a means to an end for an international broadcaster and has not been the only such means for the better part of a decade now. It stands to reason that a broadcaster would want to deploy a range of distribution options to best effect. Where I disagree with the BBCWS most is in its attempt to target something called an "opinion former". Their model, in this regard, assumes a certain stasis in that definition. One need only to look at what it is happening in the world today to understand that today's "opinion-former" can be tomorrow's "nobody" (and vice-versa) in a heartbeat. With that in mind, one would think that a station would gladly want to serve anyone who finds something of value in what the station is doing --- especially those who have recognized that value over time.

(Personally, I think the folks that run many of these stations and services lack an essential understanding of the nature of their enterprises and how they differ from other broadcasting ventures; and are surprisingly ill-equipped for their tasks. But that's only an opinion (one informed by some knowledge, I hope) and I fully understand that times do change. Nonetheless, I do feel we are experiencing a serious loss in some respects and I regret that.)

As far as changing Byford's mind, that horse ran a long time ago. (Actually, it's dead and has been pulverized nearly into dust at this point.) But I still think it's fun to talk about (John Figliozi, *ibid.*)

I believe that for Byford, it's *not* about getting the greatest audience numbers. It's about getting to those "opinion formers", average people be damned. In this case, letting people to listen to things such as "Saturday Sportsworld", "Westway", or any of the classical music programs isn't necessary. As long as they get the news and information parts of the stream out, that seems to be all they're looking for.

The impression Byford gives is that he believes shortwave in North America is only for a) people who believe in the black helicopter conspiracies, and b) people who care about tractor production in Albania (Ted Schuerzinger, *ibid.*)

I was not an opinion former when I first heard the BBC. I must have been less than 8 years old because World War II was still in progress. In 1943 my family moved from Indiana to Long Island and the old man rented a house next to Mrs. Baxter. Mrs. Baxter had the habit of playing her radio pretty loudly with her windows open. Mrs. Baxter was a transplant from the UK who used the BBC to keep up with the war news. I asked her one day after hearing the chimes of Big Ben what that was she was listening to. She invited me in to listen to her big console radio with the green tuning eye. I was impressed.

We had a Silvertone console in the living room as did most families of that era. I never knew it had any use except to listen to the Lone Ranger and Captain Midnight. I used that radio to tune in the BBC and other shortwave stations. I was hooked at an early age.

As I grew in education and mental capacity I came to respect the BBC as a great source of news and, in those days, comedy. My sense of the world and my sense of humor were irreparably warped. I became an opinion former. But because the BBC was not only targeting opinion formers in those days, I was convinced as a very young person that the British had ideas I could learn from and funny stuff that could make my life richer. Today, I vote and like most people on this list, I am not shy about sharing my opinions. I do so often in print, in broadcast talk radio, or on the internet. I consider myself an opinion former whose opinion of the UK and its culture was formed long before I became an opinion former of others.

The BBC can learn a lot from the Catholic Church or the Church of England. Get them young and brainwash them while they are

impressionable. The BBC did that to me. (The Catholic Church tried but failed.) The BBC should not target only opinion formers but folks like me whose opinions can be molded over decades of intelligent radio listening. In my now-formed opinion they can best do that by targeting everyone via as many different media as possible and over time the opinion formers will evolve, understanding the UK's view of the world and respecting the UK's contribution to civilization. Nudge, nudge, wink, wink, say no more!

The BBC on SW beamed to North America should not be a dead parrot, but it is as far as the BBC budget is concerned. So we do what we have to do. We listen on FM or the internet or on SW with a slightly better antenna than we needed before.

Someplace out there is a pimple-faced kid surfing the internet who stumbles across the BBC web pages and the cycle begins again. Some day he or she may even may even stumble across the Universal Radio web site and jump to the next level of evolution. Or is it devolution?

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(Joe Buch, *ibid.*)
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Last words from me on this: As you know, I disagree vehemently with the point that the difference (between public and commercial) doesn't matter and that it's all "inside baseball". NBC TV (stateside) prides itself on excelling in attracting a particular demographic (age and income) even though its gross numbers may be lower than another network's. Understandable because what you're really trying to do is sell soap --- the programming is just an intro to the ads --- and you'll sell more soap if you target those who have the money and are more easily convinced to buy. Others want large raw numbers and program to the lowest common denominator as a result. (NBC just programs to the lowest common denominator of its prime target demographic.)

Public service broadcasting --- in its "purest" sense --- has an entirely different orientation. The programming is the point and the audience for each offering is almost always a minority one. (Of course, these are gross generalizations to illustrate the contrast, but the contrast is clearly identifiable and not at all illusory or subtle.) It may be true that some (many?) wish to blur the distinctions because it serves their own agendas.

And I'm not saying that numbers don't matter at all. But Star TV (and CNN) is one thing; the BBC (at least traditionally) is another. The standards and measurements applied to each should be different to recognize these distinctions. But if public has to measure up to

commercial (and, therefore, presumptively compete with it), then the public will, indeed, begin to resemble the commercial more and more until the distinction becomes illusory.

That is what is going on with public service media, in my view. Instead of a Byford standing ground and insisting on a recognition of the difference (as some former BBC DGs and MDs have done), he blurs the distinction while insisting that the BBC is superior (to Star or CNN). Oddly enough, that's only true as long as that public/commercial distinction can be maintained because it is that distinction that earned the BBCWS its stature. But what point will the "commercial popularization" of the WS erase that distinction entirely and its reputation with it?

Put another way, two items may be fruit, but one is an apple and the other is an orange. Telling me you're handing me an apple because it's the same thing as an orange may serve a marketing purpose, but it doesn't change reality. ("It's all fruit! Most people don't care whether they eat an apple or an orange!") Maybe (as the consumer) I'll shake my head yes and accept your apple as an equivalent to the orange I originally asked for --- but that only acknowledges your marketing skill or your force of will, not your knowledge of fruit or my skill at getting you to give me what I wanted in the first place.

If the only kind of programming that is deemed worthy of seeing the light of day is the one that will produce the most eyeballs for an ad campaign, then so be it. But don't tell me there is no important difference between programming produced primarily for commercial imperatives and that produced for primarily social benefit (in the eyes of the producer) or artistic imperatives. That's just not so and it's a tremendous disservice to the public service foundations of our broadcasting system in the US, as well as that of the BBC, to perpetuate that new myth. Peace (John A. Figliozzi, NY, *ibid.*)

** U K. BBCR3 WORLD MUSIC DAY 1/1/2003
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3/world/wmdday2003.shtml>
Streaming available via web-embedded RA player. (You need to have RA installed in one form or the other.) Digging through my web cache I find:
rtsp://rmlivev8.bbc.net.uk/farm/*/ev7/live24/radio3/live/fmg2.ra
(Joel Rubin, NY, Dec 21, swprograms via DXLD)

** U K O G B A N I. NORTHERN IRELAND CLANDESTINE GETS TEMPORARY LICENCE

Radio Failte /Triple FM, Teach Na Feile, 473 Falls Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT12 6DD. Tel: +442890319150 E-mail: feile@iol.ie

The Irish Nationalist station "Radio Failte" based in Belfast has got a temporary 28 day licence from the UK radio authority despite broadcasting illegally in Belfast for several months now. Most of R Failte's (Failte = "Welcome") programming is in the Irish Gaelic language it broadcasts on 107.0 MHz FM. The only other clandestine known to have broadcast in NI in recent years has been the nationalist "Radio Equality" in Portadown which broadcast during the Durmcree/Garvaghy riots in July however during the 1970's there were a lot of broadcasts from various Nationalist and Loyalist (pro British) factions (M. Byron, Great Britain, Dec 20, 2002 for Clandestine Radio Watch via DXLD)

** UNITED NATIONS [non]. 15495, United Nations Radio (via BBC, Skelton); 1732-1745* Dec. 24, English M&W with UN news. A mere 15-minute transmission, listed as Monday-Friday 1730-1745 (Terry L. Krueger, TOCOBAGA DX #67 - 25 December, 2002 CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, USA, via DXLD)

** U S A. 540, WPDI548, CO Denver - 12/24 0900 - Noted with a full length Christmas song inserted into the usual parking and telephone number info loop. This is at Denver International Airport 15 miles east of me. (PG-CO) (Patrick Griffith, Westminster, CO, Drake R-8 and Kiwa loop, NRC-AM via DXLD) Used to be on 530; I heard in Kansas on groundwave; or maybe that was another Denver TIS. 540 ought to get creamed at night by XEWA, CBK, etc. (gh, DXLD)

** U S A [and non]. Re Bruce Elving's message to the American Family Network: It's a fine letter, perfect in spirit and content.

And I don't agree with those who feel that you are tilting uselessly at windmills, Bruce. Your application and use of your citizen's right to free speech is something that I take very dearly to heart, and I can think of no better use of it than to better the DX'ing hobby, not to mention attempting to correct an illegal practice by a large religious organization whose bullying tactics are way out of place, especially at this time of the year. I see posted gripes from those who whine about the ineffectiveness of the FCC too often; I'd MUCH rather see a post detailing action helping the FCC to correct problems. You are to be congratulated for your efforts (Paul Swearingen, Topeka, KS, amfmtvdx via DXLD)

Many thanks, Paul, for your heartfelt comments. I hope I can continue to uphold the right of DXers to expect the finest of the broadcast stations they DX (Bruce Elving, ibid.)

Subject: [AMFMTVDX] Bruce Elving, AFR and deregulation

Bruce Elving has touched on a broader issue affecting not only the

broadcast industry but the public: The deregulation of the airwaves.

The airwaves are public property -- like the sidewalks, streets, national parks, and town squares. Furthermore, they are a vital form of communication, by citizens, and a foundation of our democratic political and social system.

Thus, the airwaves themselves more than just a business. Businesses do use the airwaves for broadcasting, but so do government and non-profit civil-society institutions. No one outside of the state, representing the public, owns the broadcast spectrum or space on that spectrum. We the people -- so to speak -- do.

Government agencies like the FCC, the CRTC, and their counterparts around the world exist to regulate the airwaves. In democratic societies, these agencies are supposed to be accountable to the citizenry. Citizens include those whose primary interest is business and religion, but these groups are among many interest groups in society.

However, broadcast deregulation has in effect turned these agencies into -- at best -- paper pushers. Traditional anti-interference regulations and other measures have, for the most part, gone out the window. The result is chaos. IBOC and the whole introduction of digital broadcasting is a classic example of what we can expect from a government when that government chooses to serve and represent particular interest groups, or specific parties within larger interest groups.

If IBOC continues as we are currently experiencing it, broadcasters will be able to use IBOC to obliterate each other. Like a bad game of splatterball. Deregulation means stations will be able to identify however they choose, if and when they want. They will be able to sell their broadcast licences to other parties without public input. They will be able to freely air racist language.

I'm currently fighting an Ontario station that used the term 'wop' to describe an Italian scientist -- actually it was the U.S.-based Phil Hendrie Show, which runs on CKTB in St. Catharines. The CRTC no longer handles these complaints; I've been handed off to the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council, an industry-run voluntary compliance outfit. They passed me onto the broadcaster, whose spokesperson says we should just agree to disagree.

I wouldn't personally put my energy into Bruce's cause, and my methodology might differ from his, but I do wish him every success. We all have the right to know very specifically who the tenants are on public property.

This is not a DX issue, to me. DXers don't have any special privileges. If there is room to make the spectrum more crowded, and in return increase the variety of programming and people who have access to the airwaves, then that is ultimately more important than having channels that can be easily DXed. Not to say I don't experience some mild disappointment when new locals take to the air (Saul Chernos, Ont., amfmtvdx via DXLD) Well! Put!! (gh)

** U S A. SPECTRUM WANTS TO BE FREE -- NEVER PAY FOR PHONE, CABLE, OR NET ACCESS AGAIN --- Issue 11.01 - January 2003 VIEW By Kevin Werbach

A revolution is brewing in wireless. In an industry speech in October, FCC chair Michael Powell expressed support for a radical idea called open spectrum that could transform the communications landscape as profoundly as the Internet ever did. If it works, you'll never pay for telephone, cable, or Net access again.

Open spectrum treats the airwaves as a commons, shared by all. It's the brainchild of engineers, activists, and scholars such as wireless gadfly Dewayne Hendricks, former Lotus chief scientist David Reed, and NYU law professor Yochai Benkler. The idea is that smart devices cooperating with one another function more effectively than huge proprietary communications networks. The commons can be created through distinct, unlicensed "parks" or through "underlay" technologies, such as ultrawideband, that are invisible to licensed users in the same band....

<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/11.01/view.html>
(via ??, DXLD)

** U S A. TV DXING IN A DIGITAL WORLD

It's a safe bet to say that most of us in the WTFDA have access to a computer now and that most of have visited eBay at least occasionally, if not daily. It's also a safe bet to say that if we do any TV DXing at all we would also like to DX the DTV channels. But our options are few since a good DTV set-top box will set us back around \$400 and most of us either can't or won't pay that price.

If we can't afford a Samsung DTV converter the next best option might be a Hauppauge Win TV-D Card for our computers. Prices on these cards have come down on eBay to the point where you can purchase a new card for \$130 or less. In one instance a WFTDA member recently bought one for only \$115!

2003 will be another huge year for digital television. At this time the CEA reports that there are over 600 DTV stations on the air with another large batch ready to hit the streets on or soon after January

of 2003. What this means is that analog TV DXing will be harder to accomplish than it already is.

With all this in mind, what do we do? Do we stay with our analog TVs and hope we can log something new or do we just take down our antennas and say adios to TV DX or do we try to adapt to the new technology, which means purchasing a converter or a computer card.

I went with the computer card. I really didn't want to give up on something I enjoy. The price was right and others have done it successfully and were there for support if I needed it.

Watching TV with the Hauppauge DTV card is an eye-opener. Channels I thought were empty are not. Sure I could guess about a couple of stations, but others came as a real surprise. The "snow" I saw on channels 10 and 11 is a perfect WTNH and WWLP DTV picture. The same goes for channels 33, 34, 36, 39, 45, 46, 55 and 58. That stretch of channels from ch 30-40 that looked so empty on my Sanyo analog TV is not empty at all.

DXing the digital channels should be interesting. However when one is accustomed to looking for weak, snowy signals as tropo indicators, a little re-thinking of the methods used needs to take place and I'm still in the re-thinking phase.

As you all know, with DTV DXing you won't see a weak snowy picture. You'll see a black screen or a perfect picture or you might see a broken up picture with part of it out of place or digitally garbled. How do you know when the tropo is up?

Luckily at this point we still have analog channels on the air. My best bet, I think, is to keep using my analog set to look for signs of tropo on those channels I still have use of. Or better yet, use my FM equipment to look for signs of trop. Next I have gone to Antennaweb.org on the internet and downloaded channel listings for Boston, NYC and other places, to get an instant grasp of what DTVs are actually on the air, and on what channels. And I also keep my VUDs handy for Doug's TV News columns. Then, all that is left to do when tropo shows is to find out where it's coming from, point my dish into that area and then check the available DTV channels.

It's a strange feeling to watch a black screenÖnot at all like watching snow and the familiar audio hiss that goes with it. Watching a black screen is unnatural, if you ask me. But that's what we'll have to do if we want to do any TV DXing in the future. Right now we still have our old familiar analog stations to help ease the transition and provide some comfort, but when those have gone and the digital stations are the only ones left, will we still get any satisfaction

out of staring into the black nothingness, hoping for a picture to appear? Each of us will have to answer that.

Can you teach an old dog new tricks? Yes, you can. Can a veteran analog DXer learn new digital tricks? No doubt about it, but the question is will the veteran analog DXer want to learn them.

Time will tell. (Mike Bugaj, CT, Jan WTFDA VHF-UHF Digest via DXLD)

** U S A. A CANADIAN HEARD ON HIGH

http://www.globeandmail.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/PEstory/TGAM/20021224/FASS24/Features/features/features_temp/2/2/3/

PRINT EDITION SOCIAL STUDIES

A DAILY MISCELLANY OF INFORMATION BY MICHAEL KESTERTON

Globe and Mail (Toronto, Ont.) Tuesday, December 24, 2002 - Page A20

At 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve, 1906, a dozen or so wireless-radio operators in the Caribbean began to hear faint, ghostly music. One said to his shipmates, "Listen, I hear an angel's voice on the microphone, and music and singing, too." But it wasn't an angel. It was Canadian-born inventor Reginald Aubrey Fessenden, called by some the Father of Radio. A few notes:

Mr. Fessenden's target audience, crews sailing aboard the banana fleet of the United Fruit Co., were told only that there would be a special broadcast on their ship-to-shore telegraph systems. They expected it would be Morse Code dots and dashes from the equipment the company had purchased from Mr. Fessenden. Instead, they heard a short voice announcement, followed by the Edison-Bell recording of Handel's Largo. A woman sang some carols and Mr. Fessenden scraped out Oh Holy Night on his violin. He sang the last verse and remarked: "If anybody hears me, please write to Mr. Fessenden at Brant Rock" in Massachusetts. He had just become the world's first music deejay, by devising a successful AM transmitter.

Mr. Fessenden disagreed with Marconi's theory that radio transmissions were brief electrical whiplashes. The inventor himself believed broadcasts were like water ripples that moved in continuous waves, in widening circles, and that voice and music might be carried on them. Thomas Edison, his one-time employer, had told Mr. Fessenden that wireless speech was about as likely as a man jumping over the moon.

The Christmas Eve broadcast was Mr. Fessenden's first announced transmission over long distances. In 1900, he had sent the first voice-only message, a distance of one mile: "Is it snowing where you are, Mr. Thiessen?"

The man once called "the greatest wireless inventor of his age" accumulated more than 500 patents in his career. (He might have done his inventing in Canada if McGill hadn't turned him down when he applied for a professorship.) Many of Mr. Fessenden's ideas were widely adopted -- without his consent -- during the First World War. In 1928, the U.S. Radio Trust paid him \$2.5-million in recognition of his contributions to the medium. Source: Social Studies, 1996 (via Daniel Say, swprograms via DXLD)

** U S A [non]. BEWARE OF FORKED-TONGUE WARRIORS

By Ian Urbina, San Antonio Current, December 12, 2002

Wedged between a rack of 99-cent cheese crisps and a display of pork rinds stood a life-sized cardboard cutout of a buxom blonde in a red miniskirt. Resting on her inner thigh was a frosty bottle of Miller Genuine Draft. "That's essentially what we do," an army major remarked, pointing to the stiletto-heeled eye-catcher. "But we don't sell beer."

The scene was a recruitment barbecue conducted by the U.S. Army's 11th Psychological Operations Battalion ("Psy-ops," for short), held recently at Andrews Air Force Base outside of Washington, D.C. Amid the Cheetos, cheesecake, and a sweaty game of softball, there was casual chit-chat about the workplace challenges faced by these fatigue-wearing PR execs.

Part ad men and part ethnographers, these specialists, some of whom are just back from Afghanistan, are dispatched regularly to front lines in the Middle East for hearts-and-minds campaigns aimed at undercutting the enemy's military morale and winning over civilian support. Many are waiting eagerly for a call to Iraq. With the U.S. military deploying in every corner of the globe, demand is booming in the psychological warfare industry these days, and Psy-ops is especially eager to recruit outsiders who have experience or interest in the Middle East. Hence, the barbecues, accompanied by war stories - actually, psy-war stories.

Although invited, I am a reporter, so recruiters and guests wouldn't speak to me for attribution. They did, however reluctantly, share some yarns.

"Much of the time on the ground," one private recalled about a tour of duty in the Middle East, "is spent driving around the desert in Humvees mounted with nine speakers, each blasting a thousand watts of noise. Tank treads, helicopter propellers, huge guns - we broadcast anything that'll scare the shit out of 'em." When music is chosen, the playlist tends to be short: Beach Boys, AC/DC, and Jimi Hendrix's shrill "Star-Spangled Banner," repeat ad nauseam until the enemy

submits out of sheer annoyance. Other psy-opers parachute in and then remain stationary, setting up the army's equivalent of a battlefield copy shop to churn out agitprop handbills in the millions.

Some operatives are airborne aboard Commando Solo, an Air Force cargo plane converted into a \$70 million flying radio and TV station, beaming news, tunes, and an occasional bit of disinformation to the enemy.

"We just deliver the goods," quipped the major who played host to me. "The guys down South drawing the cartoons are the ones paid six figures to know that because bananas are a delicacy in Iraq, they should get drawn into the picture with an enticing feast scene."

Headquartered at the 4th Psychological Operations Group in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the psy-op artists typically rely on cartoon animations to convey their messages. But it is psy-op history itself that belongs in a comic strip: Its collection of harebrained schemes is sometimes almost too colorful to believe, though all of the following tales have been covered in the press at one point or another. One such plan initially investigated by the Air Force before Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait entailed the projection of a holographic image of Allah floating over Baghdad and instructing Iraqi civilians to overthrow Saddam. The idea was promptly dropped after scientists informed the Pentagon that it would require a mirror a square mile in area, not to mention the added problem that no one knows what Allah looks like. Furthermore, since divine portrayals of any kind are strictly forbidden in Islam, the hologram would surely have elicited a reaction, but probably not the one intended.

Framing an understandable message is always tough. When using comic strips, captions need to be as concise and simple as possible. Yet, even in small amounts, the use of text raises questions. One has to wonder, for example, whether it was really effective to drop millions of text-based leaflets on Afghanistan, where barely 30 percent of its 27 million people can read. In all cases, well-crafted animations are a must, and for the highest quality drawings, the 4th at Bragg sometimes opts to contract out. In 2000, it hired DC Comics to produce special versions of Superman and Wonder Woman comic books, in the languages of the Balkans, Central America, Africa, and Southeast Asia, to educate locals on the dangers of land mines. But even Superman can be confusing at times: Although widely understood in some contexts, thought bubbles appearing above a cartoon character's head left some readers, especially rural ones, completely baffled, according to press accounts.

Often more confusing than convincing, psy-ops can suffer hugely from the smallest graphical errors. A T-shirt used in Cambodia to try to

deter kids from entering certain unsafe zones featured a boy squatting over a mine that he was poking with a stick. The silk-screened shirt was yanked from production, according to one account, when angry villagers kept asking why American personnel were distributing images of kids defecating over land mines. The squatting boy was eventually redrawn.

Bigger mistakes mean bigger consequences. Leaflets dropped in Somalia in 1992, prior to the U.N. troop arrival, were meant to assure the populace of the mission's humanitarian intentions. Unfortunately, of all the personnel the U.S. initially deployed in the country, only two were native speakers, and one turned out to be the son of the country's bloodiest warlord. Pamphlet proofreaders, needless to say, were in short supply, and the result was sometimes quite embarrassing. Instead of announcing help from the "United Nations," the pamphlets spoke of help from the "Slave Nations," and as anyone who has seen the movie Black Hawk Down can certainly attest, neither the blue helmets nor the boys with stars and stripes were welcomed with open arms when they eventually landed ashore.

The backflow of misinformation can also be a serious problem. Although the Pentagon and the CIA are barred by U.S. law from propaganda activities in the United States, during the mid 1970s increased scrutiny of military intelligence operations revealed that programs planting fake leaks in the foreign press had resulted in false articles running back through the U.S. media. But sometimes the false articles are intentional. When the American public seemed to be developing weak knees about the Nicaraguan contras, the Office of Public Diplomacy, part of the Reagan-era State Department, quickly leaked fake intelligence to The Miami Herald that the Soviet Union had given chemical weapons to the Sandinistas.

Distribution of misinformation overseas can be trickier. In 1999, during the NATO air war in Yugoslavia, more than 100 million leaflets were to be dropped on Kosovo. But at the designated time, there was too much ground-to-air fire for planes to fly lower than 20,000 feet. Swept by strong winds, many leaflets landed in the wrong country, according to military reports.

Sometimes, the packages land in the right place, and the enemy is quite happy about it. During World War II, the Japanese utilized the standard tactic of telling American soldiers that their girlfriends were getting busy while they were away from home. But on the air-dropped handbills the Japanese illustrated their point a little too well, using graphic pornography that was otherwise tough to come by on the front lines. According to military historian Stanley Sandler, "Our guys loved it. They'd trade them like baseball cards ... five for a bottle of whiskey."

But there are also some psy-ops success stories. In Vietnam, U.S. planes sprinkled enemy territory with playing cards, but prior to carpet bombing, they dropped only the ace of spades. Before long, the Pavlovian technique took hold, and just the dropping of aces was sufficient to clear an entire area. During the Persian Gulf War, many Iraqi soldiers surrendered with U.S. leaflets in hand. Throughout that war, American forces also cleverly floated 10,000 bottles with intimidating notes in the gulf toward Iraqi shores. According to subsequent interviews with captured Iraqi soldiers, the bottled messages effectively increased concerns in Baghdad over the possibility of a massive amphibious landing. No such landing took place.

On occasion, enemy psy-opers have gotten it right, too. The North Vietnamese peppered American soldiers with leaflets using anti-war slogans from the States. "Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids did you kill today?" was a particular favorite appropriated by Vietcong leafleteers. When American soldiers finally came home, many commented that the printed reminders of stateside opposition to the war really wore down morale. Last decade, the Iraqis made occasionally smart use of disinformation, often disseminated through their old enemy, Iran (making it more believable). According to U.S. military sources, leaflets were circulated in Bangladesh citing a Tehran radio report that U.S. troops had opened fire on Bangladeshi troops who refused to join the military strike on Iraq. The incident, allegedly leaving hundreds dead, was a complete fabrication.

Less than an exact science, psy-ops is a clumsy art that has seen few real innovations over the years. In the 4th century B.C., Alexander the Great ordered his metalworkers to craft giant helmets to fit men the size of 20-foot monsters. His soldiers would then leave the helmets strewn about in conquered villages, hoping to inflame the wildest imaginations of enemy armies passing through the area. More recent psy-op folklore has it that along the same lines, though pitching at a slightly lower angle, American psy-op specialists in Vietnam left foot-long condoms along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, presumably to preoccupy the enemy soldiers with hiding their wives and daughters.

The laundry list of actual psy-ops bloopers is certainly long and dirty, leaving some in the U.S. military skeptical of whether the American forked-tongued brigades are keeping up with the enemy. A May 2000 report by the Defense Science Board Task Force, an advisory panel to the Defense Department, concluded, "While the United States is years ahead of its competitors in terms of military technology, in terms of psy-ops there are already competitors on par with, or even arguably more sophisticated than, the U.S." But in other circles, confidence is unwavering. At a recent press conference, Defense

Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said, "If Saddam were to issue such an order to use a chemical or biological attack, that does not necessarily mean his orders would be carried out." Rumsfeld's oblique speculation rested on the dubious hope, gaining popularity on Capitol Hill, that psychological operations might just do the trick on Saddam's key weapons handlers. But as one unnamed senior defense official pointed out to USA Today, the men in charge of the supposed Iraqi chemical or biological weapons and missile forces are likely Saddam's most loyal soldiers. In fact, if our psy-ops people are left to their old devices, the Iraqi commanders might just hit those red buttons all the faster.

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=6343127&BRD=2318&PAG=461&dept_id=484045&rfi=6
(via Nick Grace, USA Dec 17, 2002 for CRW via DXLD)

** U S A [non]. CIA SPY MASTER TED SHACKLEY DIES AT 75
By Carol Rosenberg, Miami Herald, December 13, 2002
<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/news sentinel/4733339.htm>

Theodore ''Ted'' Shackley, a legendary spy master and Cold War figure who ran the CIA's huge Miami operation during the height of U.S. tensions with Cuba during the 1960s, has died of cancer in Maryland. He was 75.

Nicknamed ''The Blond Ghost'' because he hated to be photographed, Shackley was an exacting, intense, elusive covert operator. As Miami station chief during Operation Mongoose, an interagency U.S. effort to topple Fidel Castro, he ran about 400 agents and operatives during a period that included the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962.

The Miami assignment was only one of the many powerful posts he held during a 28-year counterinsurgency career that spanned the globe.

The places where he worked as a senior CIA officer -- Berlin, Saigon, Laos -- served as signposts in the global struggle between the United States and Soviet-backed communism.

In Miami, he directed an ambitious anti-Castro propaganda and paramilitary campaign, and as a sign of its significance, Shackley would later say that he commanded the third-largest navy in the Caribbean -- only the United States and Cuba had more vessels than the CIA station chief's flotilla.

Thirty-year friend Tom Spencer, a Miami attorney, described Shackley Thursday as "the master spy chief, a strategist, tactician, a brilliant man, a chess player -- a person who could read tea leaves and watch things which ordinary people could not see or pick up."

Added fellow CIA retiree E. Peter Earnest, now director of Washington, D.C.'s International Spy Museum: "He had a keen sense of discipline, and was very goal-oriented. He found himself periodically in situations where there was chaos, and he could pull some order out of that."

RETIRED IN '79

Shackley retired from the Central Intelligence Agency in 1979 and set up a D.C.-area consulting firm that offered security strategy to corporate executives.

But for nearly three decades before that, including 17 years overseas, he served as a CIA officer who recruited and handled agents, hatched plots and gathered intelligence in Cold War settings.

From May 1976 to December 1977, he served as associate deputy director of operations, the No. 2 position in the clandestine operations branch. He held the job first under CIA Director George H.W. Bush, then under Adm. Stansfield Turner, who relieved him of his title in a late 1977 shake-up.

At issue: a Carter administration decision to fire thousands of secret agents and informants, notably in the Middle East, and dismantle Cold War spy networks.

Shackley, said Spencer, soon "left in disgust," retiring from the agency he had joined straight from Army duty in 1945 in Europe. Besides consulting, he also wrote a primer on counterinsurgency in 1981 called *The Third Option*.

Shackley was Miami station chief from 1962 to 1965, running his vast spy network out of the University of Miami South Campus, now the Metrozoo. It was the largest CIA hub outside of headquarters in Langley, Va.

"When I got there, the mission was to implement an intelligence collection program and clean up the residuals of the Bay of Pigs," he told retired Herald journalist Don Bohning in April 1998 in Washington. "As we got into the intelligence program and restructuring, we started detecting Soviet buildup in the context of all that, how to bring about change in Cuba."

IN MIAMI

Some of his Miami activities, he told Bohning, included "psychological warfare pressure on Cuba," including infiltrations,

radio propaganda and ties with a paramilitary, anti-Castro movement.

The only full-fledged CIA station in the continental United States, its code name was JM-Wave.

After Miami, he moved on to another Cold War hot zone, Southeast Asia, where he was a top CIA officer in Laos and Saigon in the late 1960s and early '70s.

AUTHOR RECOLLECTS

"In Laos, Shackley helped run a secret war using local tribes people, and at the end of that campaign the tribe was decimated," said David Corn, author of the 1994 book, *Blond Ghost: Ted Shackley and the CIA's Crusade*.

"Shackley was in some ways the archetype of the Cold War covert bureaucrat. He took orders from above . . . running secret wars, undermining democratically elected governments, compromising journalists and political opponents overseas . . . and made them a reality," Corn said.

Shackley also ran Latin American operations out of CIA headquarters in 1973 when Gen. Augusto Pinochet led a coup in Chile that toppled the elected government of President Salvador Allende.

"He was not the mastermind of the clandestine operations of presidents and CIA directors. He was the implementer," Corn said. "And in doing so, he avoided the moral questions that accompanied such actions and embodied the 'ends justify the means' mentality of America's national security establishment."

Fellow former CIA agent Mo Sovorn, who said they were colleagues for 45 years, summed up Shackley's management philosophy this way: "Screw up and you'd hear about it. Screw up twice for the same problem, and you're gone."

He could be a controversial figure, said Sovorn, chairman of the Central Intelligence Retirees Association.

"A lot of people absolutely hated him. A lot of people thought he was marvelous. But he got the work done."

LAST DETAILS

He cited this example of Shackley's micromanagement style:

After receiving last rites on Sunday, he had his wife summoned a

funeral director to their suburban Washington home and he picked out a casket, negotiated the fee and asked to be buried in West Palm Beach, where he was raised and educated before going to the University of Maryland. He died Monday. Burial will be next week in West Palm Beach. Visitation is scheduled for today in Washington. Mass will be said Saturday in Bethesda, Md. (via U. Fleming, USA Dec 14, 2002 for CRW via DXLD)

Ted Shackley's involvement in CIA-run clandestine radio stations includes Radio Swan, Radio AmÈricas and Union of Lao Races (which supported the Hmong tribes in Laos).

(N. Grace, USA, Dec 14, 2002 for CRW via DXLD)

** URUGUAY. 6155.08, Banda Oriental, Sarandi del Yi. 0139+, Diciembre 25. Apertura de transmisiones. Himno Nacional del Uruguay. ID completa por locutora: "A partir de este momento, inicia su transmisiÛn, CWA155 Banda Oriental, en la frecuencia de 6155 khz, con estudios ubicados en calle SarandÌ 328, SarandÌ del Yi, Durazno, Uruguay. Nuestro correo electrÛnico es: norasan@a..." [truncated]. Luego, continua una selecciÛn de mÙsica popular uruguaya. 44444 con algo de interferencia de Radio Fides, Bolivia (Arnaldo Slaen, Argentina, ConexiÛn Digital via DXLD)

** ZANZIBAR. (TANZANIA) 11735, 08/12 1906 Voice of Tanzania, Zanzibar. OM en Swahili con programa noticioso y mencionando en reiteradas ocasiones: "Dar es Salaam". Fin del programa informativo a las 1916 cuando comenzó otro programa con el Cor·n y mÙsica de estilo africano. A 2000 "bips" (5 "bips" con el mismo tono y el sexto mÙs agudo) seguido de la identificaciÛn(?) por OM. 34333 (a las 1906) pero con SINPO 23322 (a las 2000). (Marcelo Tonjolo, NY, ConexiÛn Digital via DXLD) Actually 11734+

** ZANZIBAR. [TANZANIA] Radio Tanzania-Zanzibar, 11734.13, 2002-2059 Dec. 25. Possibly the one, after seeing the report of something here -- stating that it didn't quite seem to fit RT-Z -- program-wise. Tune-in to unID language (it did sound Swahili or similar), woman with possible news until 2006. She continued after 2006, but alternated with instrumental music (piano-type stuff, mostly). Nothing I could hear was particularly "Islamic" so-to-speak. At 2059, a man babbled a bit, but I had to depart briefly to answer the door (pesky neighbors). At 2108 recheck, they were gone (the station, but not the neighbors). Not even a carrier. Timing (closing just after 2100) and approximate frequency would fit my many past RT-Z logs. Despite a little line noise, signal at times peaked to a pretty fair level, just as RT-Z has sometimes done in the past here (Terry L. Krueger, Clearwater FL, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** ZIMBABWE. ZIMBABWE JOURNALIST ACCUSED OF SPYING FOR BBC: REPORT

(See 4th & 5th paragraphs! Andy.)

HARARE, Dec 22 (AFP) - The Zimbabwe government has accused a local journalist of spying for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the state-controlled Sunday Mail reported.

The paper, which reflects government views, said Lewis Machipisa, a Zimbabwean correspondent for BBC radio, was being hired by Britain's Foreign Office to also film and write stories for BBC television.

The BBC has been officially banned from the country, but Machipisa, a Zimbabwean national, has been able to continue working here for the broadcaster.

A senior BBC official quoted in the Sunday Mail denied the allegations against Machipisa and also said the BBC was not behind an exiled radio station broadcasting into Zimbabwe from London, as the government had suggested.

The permanent secretary in Zimbabwe's Information Ministry, George Charamba told the BBC in a letter quoted in the Sunday Mail that the BBC's denials of these charges were not accepted or believed.

The charges against Machipisa come ahead of the December 31 deadline set by the government for all journalists working here to be registered, turned down or de-registered under tough new press laws
(AFP rt/ss Zimbabwe-media via A. Sennitt, Holland, Dec 22, 2002 for CRW via DXLD)

UNIDENTIFIED. 4790, 0046-0102 12/23. After listening to a presumed AIR, Chennai with Hindi music and talks, s/off at 0045, I could hear Arabic? style singing and chanting, reminiscent of the Kor'an. Brief talk at 0055 and more chanting until 0100 when pips, presumed ID, and more talks where heard. Weak tho audible. I'd like to think this was Pakistan, Azad Kashmir Radio (Scott R. Barbour, Jr., NH, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

UNIDENTIFIED. 16 Dec, 2100 UT - 5025 kHz. A very weak talk in presumed English. Too severe conditions because of bothering utility pips. After YL talk music began. At 2105 Radio Tashkent started preparing its transmitter, cutting off the possibility to listen to anything else. After 2200 frequency was completely clear. 2100 was too early for Australia, it must switch to 5025 kHz at 2130 (per WRTH)...
(Dmitry Puzanov, Kustanay, Kazakhstan, Signal via DXLD)

As Chris Hambly has frequently informed us, the switchover times by the Northern Territory service are quite variable and unreliable.

Sometimes they stay on the day frequency well into the night, or vice versa (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

UNIDENTIFIED. 23000, Over-the-horizon-radar 21-12-02 1349 very loud
(Ary Boender, Holland, BDXC via DXLD) ####

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TRANSMITTER NEWS

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GEE-WHIZ WEAPONS COULD POSE RISKS - FOR U.S.
BY SCOTT CANON, Knight Ridder Newspapers
KANSAS CITY, Mo. - KRT NEWSFEATURES

(KRT) - Imagine the effect of an electromagnetic burst over an Iraqi military hub - a radar station, an infantry command post or a Republican Guard bunker.

That pulse of energy could wipe computer memories blank, fry telephone lines and radar circuits, zap tank ignitions.

Defenses rendered instantly defenseless. The connected become the detached. High-tech turns obsolete.

Best of all, the weapon aims to kill gear, not humans.

Analysts say Iraq could end up the first testing ground for this next generation of GI gee-whiz weaponry. For now, though, much about high-powered microwave weapons remains classified.

The very potential of these directed-energy weapons - the possibility that they could flip the "off" switch for a 21st century army - could keep them under wraps.

That is because no military relies so heavily on electronics as the U.S. military does.

U.S. troops depend increasingly on arms made ever more precise and lethal through electronic brains. "Network-centric warfare" - precisely choreographed battlefield movement and communication - sits at the core of the Pentagon's idea of a modern military.

"The main reason why we keep this technology classified is not because it's so complicated, but because we want to conceal the degree to which we are vulnerable to what it could do," said Loren Thompson, a defense analyst at the Lexington Institute in Arlington, Va., who has just completed a study on directed-energy weapons.

Meantime, much remains to be seen about these untested weapons, which could range in form from an unconventional missile to a supercharged antenna.

What is publicly known, for instance, suggests their performance in the laboratory can only roughly predict field tests.

So what happens in the chaos of shifting battlefield conditions? Can microwaves effectively conk out enemy electronics? And would they indeed spare living things, or, if their power settings proved hard to control, would they cook a person from the inside out?

Among the greatest risks comes if they perform perfectly, in which case using them holds at least a potential to backfire against America's high-tech military.

Directed-energy gadgets are already a fixture on the modern battlefield. For years lasers have been key to aiming everything from rifles to tank cannons to bombs.

There is evidence as well that they can be used not only to aim something, but also to inflict their own damage. In April 1997 a Canadian helicopter near Puget Sound hovered above the Russian trawler Kapitan Man, which was suspected of hunting for an American submarine.

An American adviser on the chopper and a pilot reported severe eye pain. Photographs taken during the encounter suggested the Russian ship directed a handheld laser at the helicopter.

Although lasers have yet to be fully developed as combat weapons, they represent one form of a technology widely believed to hold a range of warfare applications.

Already microwaves temporarily jam enemy radar - a tactic now routine in American air assaults.

It all starts with electromagnetic energy - from light to infrared to X-rays to the radio waves with lower frequencies and longer wavelengths at the far end of the spectrum. They batter you and all the electronics around you.

High-powered microwaves shoot to concentrate, for just an instant, a burst of energy in the same part of the spectrum as the target. Lightning bolt-style, the energy overdose blows the circuits to transform a computer or radar into scrap metal.

That power was seen from atomic bomb tests in the Pacific Ocean in the

1940s that sent out an electrical burst trashing phone lines in far-off Hawaii.

The challenge now is to harness that effect without splitting atoms, and to point it in the right directions.

Tests have begun on some weapons that look like modified radar dishes, like antennas or, to focus the transmission of energy, like horns.

"These things are supposed to be directional," said Philip Coyle, a senior adviser at the Center for Defense Information. "The idea is to beam the energy at your target."

He said the microwave weapons faced several hurdles on their way to perfection. They seem vulnerable to their surroundings, he said, penetrating physical barriers unpredictably and seemingly influenced by the weather or other radio signals. And they pose the problem of how to fry someone else's electronics without crashing your own motherboard.

"We don't want to zap ourselves in the foot," Coyle said.

In part because microwave weapons are believed to still be in need of fine-tuning, experts say their first use could come from a cruise missile or an unmanned vehicle. That way no U.S. troops would run the risk of their electronics melting down while delivering a blast.

Instead, a remote-controlled blast might be rigged to convert the chemical energy of high explosives into an electromagnetic burst. In such a design, the effects would blanket an area rather than zoom in on a single target.

What is unclear is the level of control over that burst of energy. Too little energy, and electronics escape unharmed. Too much, and not only do computers sizzle, but flesh burns, too.

An article in Jane's Defence Weekly in August quoted an unnamed scientist who the publication said was familiar with the effects of the weapons and what the most powerful varieties could do to people.

"All the fluid in their body cells would instantly vaporize into steam," the scientist told Jane's. "It would happen so fast, you wouldn't even be aware of it.

"If, on the other hand, you were caught ... by a weak reflection of the main beam off a metal surface - which could easily happen in a city - you could probably suffer terrible burns as well as permanent brain damage."

In fact, work is under way on microwave weapons for crowd control to, say, keep marauders from overrunning an American Embassy. They would make water molecules just beneath the skin vibrate violently, creating an intense burning sensation. Military officers who have experienced the effect said it creates instant panic.

Thompson said he thought humans would not feel the effects of the weapons.

The greater military risk rests in unleashing a genie that could bedevil American equipment in later conflicts, Thompson and other analysts said.

Thompson noted that recent efforts to modernize the military led to the purchase of ever more sophisticated computers and other electronics from the civilian marketplace. While that makes for greater sophistication, he said, it also blends into the U.S. arsenal electronics that aren't hardened against attacks.

And new forms of aircraft designed to avoid radar detection - the B-2 stealth bomber, the F-117 stealth fighter and the planned Joint Strike Fighter - have bodies of synthetic materials rather than metal. That makes them less visible to radar but lacking a built-in protection against microwave weapons.

"We are probably doing too little to protect our equipment against electromagnetic attack," Thompson said.

Some analysts, in fact, think the ever-widening technological edge the American military enjoys over its enemies has a potential to be an Achilles' heel.

"We in the sophisticated and technological West are especially vulnerable to this," said Robert Hewson, editor of Jane's Air-Launched Weapons. "It would be great to blind the enemies' electronics with this. It could spare you collateral damage" - the military term for civilian casualties. "It could do a lot for you."

"But we have the most to lose."

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